

CONFIDENTIAL

R4  
FLO  
347

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 30 March 1948

SUBJECT SED-sponsored Referendum for German Unity

NO. OF PAGES

"LIBRARY COPY"

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

38296

25X1A

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1X



25X1X

1. During a conference held at the SED Party headquarters in Berlin on 22 March, Wilhelm Pieck complained that not all delegates to the People's Congress were giving that body their full support. He stated that some CDU and LDP members were trying to limit the scope of its activities. It was determined, therefore, that the Volksrat (Popular Assembly of the People's Congress) would operate by majority rule so that dissenters, who might otherwise be supported by the unanimity rule, could be over-ridden. The Volksrat would be the sovereign body of a parliament concerned not only with peace and German unity, but also with all the questions within the normal province of a national assembly, be these questions constitutional, economic, social, or legal.
2. Pieck went on to state that a broad wave of national feeling should be set into motion. The KPD in the western zones should drop its inhibitions against nationalistic slogans. The supreme task of the SED in the coming months would be that of organizing a national referendum on the question of German unity. Pieck said that this referendum should not be sponsored by the People's Congress or the Volksrat, but simply by "groups of honest Germans", so that the western powers would have no excuse for prohibiting it. The constitutions of the Länder of the American Zone all provide that a list of signatures of ten per cent of the electorate is sufficient to force the government to place an issue before the public. The issue on the referendum would be phrased: "I am for a united Germany; I am in favor of a German Republic". Pieck predicted that, when confronted with this statement, no German voter would be able to say no. He was convinced that the signatures of a majority of the voters would be obtained.
3. Kurt Lichtenstein, a delegate from Dusseldorf, remarked that, in the British Zone where the Länder have no constitutions, a referendum would have to be staged according to the provisions of the Weimar Constitution. Walter Ulbricht pointed out that the referendum would only be the starting point. The "groups of honest Germans" won by SED-KPD tactics would be formed into committees to supplement the SED cadres in the mobilization of the masses to support German unity.
4. It was conceded in the course of the conference that all hope for gaining recognition for the SED in the western zones was lost. The SED-KPD Arbeitsgemeinschaft is to be considered a flat failure. It is also realized that the efforts to generate and control a pro-SED movement in the SPD have been unsuccessful.

Document No. 888

NO CHANGE in Class. CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

Class. CHANGED TO: X NSRB X S C

Auth: DIA Memo, 4 Apr 1977  
DIA R.O. 77-1766

Date: 17 May 78 Approved For Release 2001/03/09 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001400340009-4

This document is hereby declared to be CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1977 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.  
Next Review Date: 2008

CONFIDENTIAL

BY CABLE

REFERENCE CENTER LIBRARY